


Respectfully submitted,

March 7, 2003


John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Customer No. 26479
(732) 335-1222

STRAUB & POKOTYLO
1 Bethany Road
Suite 83, Bldg. 6
Hazlet, NJ 07730

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **March 7, 2003** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


John C. Pokotylo

36,242
Reg. No.



SEPARATE SHEETS WITH MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS PER 37
C.F.R § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1 1. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:
2 a plurality of [detection means]detectors which are
3 provided respectively at different positions[, for
4 detecting] and which detect contact or approach of a hand
5 to make an image pickup operation;
6 a mode setup [means for setting]unit which sets up a
7 stand-by mode in which a predetermined power and/or driving
8 pulse is supplied to an image pickup device, capable of
9 commencing an image pickup operation immediately in
10 response to a release instruction; and
11 an image pickup [control means for
12 executing]controller which controls a preliminary operation
13 for image pickup if a first condition wherein the stand-by
14 mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and the image
15 pickup operation is allowed to be commenced immediately in
16 response to the release instruction, and a second condition
17 wherein all of the plurality of [detection means]detectors
18 detect the contact or approach, are both satisfied.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

1 2. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
2 comprising mode holding [means]unit using a non-volatile
3 memory, [for holding]which holds a setup state of the
4 stand-by mode set by the mode setup [means]unit even during
5 a power-off period.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

1 3. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a mode release [means for releasing]unit which
3 releases the stand-by mode when the stand-by mode is set by
4 the mode setup [means]unit and a period in which at least
5 one of the plurality of [detection means]detectors does not
6 detect the contact or approach of a hand reaches a
7 predetermined time.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

1
1 4. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
2 comprising operation [control means for rendering]
3 controller which renders a part of the plurality of
4 [detection means]detectors operational, when the stand-by
5 mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and a period in
6 which at least one of the plurality of [detection
7 means]detectors does not detect the contact or approach of
8 a hand reaches a predetermined time.

1 5. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, wherein the
2 plurality of [detection means]detectors are provided at
3 least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera
4 body.

1 7. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:
2 [detection means]a detector which is provided near a
3 release button[, for detecting] and detects contact or
4 approach of a hand to make an image pickup operation;
5 a main power switch [for switching]which switches on
6 and off a power source of the camera; and

7 an image pickup [control means for
8 executing]controller which executes a preliminary operation
9 for image pickup if a first condition wherein the power
10 switch is set on and a second condition wherein the
11 [detection means]detector detects the contact or approach
12 of a hand are both satisfied.

1 9. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:
2 a plurality of [detection means]detectors which are
3 provided respectively at different positions[, for
4 detecting] and which detect contact or approach of a hand;
5 a mode setup [means for setting]unit which sets up a
6 stand-by mode in which a predetermined power and/or driving
7 pulse is supplied to an image pickup device, capable of
8 commencing an image pickup operation immediately in
9 response to a release instruction; and
10 an image pickup [control means for
11 executing]controller which executes a preliminary operation
12 for image pickup if a first condition wherein the stand-by
13 mode is set by the mode setup [means]unit and the image
14 pickup operation is allowed to be commenced immediately in
15 response to the release instruction, and a second condition
16 wherein at least one of the plurality of [detection
17 means]detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand,
18 are both satisfied.

1 10. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic
2 still camera, comprising [steps of]:
3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
4 body, by a plurality of [detection means]detectors provided
5 respectively at different positions;

6 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
7 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
8 image pickup system commences an image pickup operation
9 immediately in response to a release instruction; and
10 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
11 a first condition wherein the image pickup system is in the
12 stand-by state and [at least one of the plurality of
13 detection means detects the contact or approach of the
14 hand]the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced
15 immediately in response to the release instruction, and a
16 second condition wherein all the plurality of detectors
17 detect the contact or approach of a hand, are both
18 satisfied.

1 11. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the
2 preliminary operation is executed if all the plurality of
3 [detection means]detectors detect the contact or approach
4 of a hand.

1 12. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 11, wherein [in
2 the step of]when detecting, if the image pickup system is
3 in the stand-by state and a part of the plurality of
4 [detection means]detectors detects the contact or approach
5 of [the]a hand to make an image pickup operation, another
6 part of the plurality of [detection means]detectors starts
7 a detection operation.

1 13. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the
2 plurality of [detection means]detectors are provided at
3 least at a grip part and a release button part of a camera
4 body.

1 14. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, further
2 comprising [a step of] writing a setup of the image pickup
3 system in the stand-by state into a non-volatile memory if
4 an input for turning off a power source is given.

1 15. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, further
2 comprising [a step of] releasing the stand-by state when
3 the stand-by state is set and a period in which at least
4 one of the plurality of [detection means]detectors does not
5 detect the contact or approach of [the]a hand reaches a
6 predetermined time.

1 18. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic
2 still camera, comprising [steps of]:
3 detecting contact or approach of a hand by [detection
4 means]a detector provided near a release button;
5 switching on and off a main power source of the
6 camera; and
7 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
8 [the main power source is on and the plurality of detection
9 means detects the contact or approach of the hand]a first
10 condition wherein the power switch is set on and a second
11 condition wherein the detector detects the contact or
12 approach of a hand are both satisfied.